

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 165256 SENT ACTION ANKARA DATED
30 JULY 1974:

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TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: OPIUM BAN; TESTIMONY BY SECRETARY KISSINGER

REF: ANKARA 05958

1. PORTION OF THE SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY ON JULY 24 TO
THE FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE APPRO-
PRIATIONS COMMITTEE DEALING WITH TURKISH OPIUM FOLLOWS:

QUOTE. SENATOR INOUE. THE COMMITTEE IS INFORMED THAT
IN VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES,
TURKEY HAS LIFTED ITS BAN ON CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPIES.
ON THE 7TH OF MAY OF THIS YEAR WE RECEIVED TESTIMONY FROM
MR. VANCE OF YOUR OFFICE: "OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE THEM
WITH A LITTLE OVER \$35 MILLION IN GRANT ASSISTANCE WAS
CONDITIONED ON THAT UNDERTAKING, ON THAT DECREE BY THE
TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO BAN THE PRODUCTION OF POPPIES."

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IS IT THE INTENTION OF THIS ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE

AID
TO TURKEY, AND IF SO, WHY?

SECRETARY KISSINGER. MR. CHAIRMAN, WE GIVE AID TO TURKEY NOT FOR ALTRUISTIC REASONS BUT BECAUSE OF THE ENORMOUS POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF TURKEY. IT IS GEO-POLITICALLY STRATEGIC AT ONE OF THE MOST CRUCIAL LOCATIONS. THE DEFENSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, THE ABILITY TO OPERATE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, DEPENDS IMPORTANTLY ON THE INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY OF TURKEY.

THE ISSUE OF POPPY CULTIVATION IS A MAJOR DOMESTIC ISSUE IN TURKEY. THE RESTRICTION ON POPPY CULTIVATION WAS ACCEPTED BY A MILITARY GOVERNMENT. TURKEY IS NOW UNDER A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS A NARROW MAJORITY. THE PRESSURES ON THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO RESUME CULTIVATION OF POPPIES HAVE PROVED TO BE OVERWHELMING.

WE WERE ON THE VERGE OF BEGINNING A DIALOGUE WITH TURKEY LOOKING TOWARDS EFFECTIVE CONTROLS OF THE TRAFFIC FROM THE POPPY CULTIVATION AND MAKING SURE THAT THE PRODUCTION WOULD NOT EXCEED THE MEDICAL NEEDS. THIS DIALOGUE COULD NOT START BECAUSE OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE.

THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL BE TO BRING THE TRADE IN THE PRODUCT UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROL, AND IF THAT IS ACHIEVED WE BELIEVE THAT AID TO TURKEY SHOULD CONTINUE BECAUSE IT IS DONE IN OUR OWN INTEREST AND NOT ONLY IN THE TURKISH INTEREST.

SENATOR INOUE. THEN OUR ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE TURKEY TO STOP ITS PRODUCTION WAS DOOMED TO FAILURE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, WASN'T IT, SIR?

SECRETARY KISSINGER. IT FAILED, AND ONE CAN EXPLAIN IN RETROSPECT WHY IT ALMOST WAS BOUND TO FAIL, GIVEN THE NARROW MARGIN IN THE TURKISH PARLIAMENT AND THE FACT THAT ALL PARTIES HAD MADE PROMISES TO RESUME CULTIVATION DURING THE ELECTION.

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SENATOR INOUE. HOW CAN WE IN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ASSIST YOU IN CONVINCING THE TURKISH PEOPLE OF OUR CONCERN OVER THE CULTIVATION OF POPPIES?

SECRETARY KISSINGER. WELL, I THINK THAT THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SHOULD MAKE VERY CLEAR, MR. CHAIRMAN, THAT WE CANNOT INTERFERE WITH A SOVEREIGN DECISION OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, BUT WE CAN ASK THAT THE RESULTS OF THESE

DECISIONS NOT AFFECT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE AND, THEREFORE, AT A MINIMUM, EFFECTIVE
CONTROL OF THE POPPY TRAFFIC IS AN ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT.

AND, AS I POINTED OUT, AMBASSADOR MACOMBER WAS ON THE WAY
BACK TO TURKEY WITH A PRESIDENTIAL LETTER DESIGNED TO
OPEN THIS DISCUSSION WHEN THE CYPRUS PROBLEM INTERRUPTED
THE POSSIBILITY OF A DIALOGUE ON THIS ISSUE.

AS SOON AS THE CYPRUS ISSUE IS -- NOT SOLVED, BECAUSE
THAT WILL TAKE SOME TIME, BUT HAS BEEN QUIETED TO A
POINT WHERE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT CAN DEAL WITH OTHER
PROBLEMS, WE WILL BEGIN THIS DIALOGUE AND WE WOULD WEL-
COME LEGISLATIVE EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN WITH IT. END
QUOTE. KISSINGER UNQTE KISSINGER

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